The Suffering Servant

Is. 52[14]-53[12] Interpret the significance of the sufferings of the Servant of the Lord.

Whereas

His contemporaries saw neither beauty nor promise in him

He was afflicted with disease & suffered beyond measure

He was regarded as under God's curse and went to his grave the victim of gross injustice

Nevertheless

He suffered a chastisement which others had deserved; & consequently God is going to bring him back to life that he may see the great blessing he has brought for others and enjoy the glory of a kingdom of righteousness brought about by his own sufferings.

I. Christ saw in this Suffering Servant the picture of the Messiah:

1. That the Messiah must suffer sin & death
2. That the Messiah would consequently be resurrected to a new and victorious ministry.

Jn. 10[17] Therefore doth the father love me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again.

II. Christ went to his death voluntarily.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Mt. 26

53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Jesus looked upon his going to death as a duty. must

Read. §76.

III. Why must Jesus die?

1. Read §76 death - resurrection.

In order to conquer death.

a- a demonstration to the world of the powerlessness of death to hold him for the awakening in the world of a faith in the Messiah's Kingdom

Such a faith as would give to all who have it a lordship over nature and a victory over sin and death itself.

2. Christ's death unique, not ordinary.

a- Jesus as Messiah himself ushered in the new age

b- He foretold it & fulfilled his own predictions in regard to it.

b. 1- His and His resurrection establish for the first time a reliable faith in his disciples? (Teaching miracles)

Does not Paul make the Resurrection the corner stone of an assurance?

1. Let us, this week, seek to interpret the fulfilment of the suffering Servant by Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus reigns as King because he served as Savior.

a- Am I willing to serve God in full obedience to His will?

b- Has Christ's victory over death given me such a faith in God as to free me from the power of sin and death?

c- Do I suffer because of the sins of others as Jesus did?